Oddfellows & Rebekahs. 1937

The New Demands of a Changing World.

ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS.

Intro. No set address. Just a few remarks concerning the two Orders, their presence with us and our relation one to another.

1. Congratulations on your birthday!
ODD FELLOWSHIP.
April 26, 1819 in Baltimore. Name of First Lodge- Washington Lodge No. 1.
On Feb. 22, 1821 Rechartered as an American Lodge.
Object- "For the aid and protection of Brothers when when in sickness and on travel, and for the purpose of benevolence and charity."
They wonderful homes for orphans and aged.

Name- Goes back to operative marble masons of London, in 14th century, some of whom banded themselves together and established a common fund with which to care for theri members in sickness and disease.
The unusual attracted attention and ridicule- called Odd Feloows.
The names of Christian, the Cross, Protestant, etc.

Its Principles and tenets. Taken from the Bible.
~~Fraternity as expressed in Friendship, Love and Tru~~
Applications- Acts of benevolence and charity,
Personal conduct above reproach- temperate and considerate of others. Just and upright.
Foundation of all principles and right living- a belief in a Supreme Being.

REBEKAH. Organized Sept. 20, 1850. By adoption of minority report in the Grand Lodge of the U.

Object- Ministrations of mercy in alleviating suffering and misery wherever found, the hand-maiden of the Order of Odd Fellows, working for the better of womankind and practicing the Golden Rule.
Inspired by examples of Rebekah, Miriam, Esther, Ruth and other such.
The Holy Bible the foundation of all the principles and tenets of the Order.

The Lodge and the Church.

1. Many things in common. Belief on God and the teachings of the Bible.

2. The lodge strictly on a moral basis, leaving organized religions alone.
Nevertheless an exemplary lodge man must be a religious man.
Religious spirit and fervor necessary for moral living.
One cannot believe in God and obey the Bible teachings apart from religion.
Webster's definition 2 "Conformity in faith and life to the precepts inculcated in the Bible, respecting conduct of life, and duty toward God and man' the Xn faith and practice.

3. Division of the Church into Catholic and Protestant and many sects.
a. Resulted in the advance of Liberty- personal, civil and religious.

b. The evil results of being divided are being rapidly overcome. The differences are being dropt and forgotten.
Brot about by Lodges, C.E. Sunday school conventions and organizations. The new age which places the emphasis on the practical needs of humanity.

4. The Church of Christ still presents the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and that Love and Truth and Goodness which are the great compelling forces of uplift in the world as no other organization can present.
One is a better lodge man for being a good church man.
Harmony and cooperation should exist between the church and the lodges.

Old Folks' Poems

The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one;
Yet the light of the whole world dies
With the dying sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes,
And the heart but one;
Yet the light of a whole life dies
When love is done.

3. Just a word more about the three links that bind all Odd fellows and Rebhahs together-Friendship, Love and Truth

1 link Friendship-

True friendship always shines brighter in trouble. Trouble is to friendship what acid is to gold. Character is largely formed and success in life largely achieved thru friendships. A true friend advises and helps. He not only relieves human weakness, but aids in removing it

2 link- Love-

Love is embraced in friendship. Ah, what power is love! Love makes everything old seem like new.

Old ~~woman~~ lady comes into church
A young lady enters, fair to look at and with the sparkle of geniue in her eyes.
You ask me which is the more beautiful-
I would point to the old lady and say,"
"She is the most beautiful lady God ever made for she is my mother".
The object of love is always beautiful.

In our dealings and contacts with peoples we need more love. What a wonderful world this would be if we all loved one another! If love ruled the world earth would be heaven!

the eye of the soul - read

3 link- Truth

Truth, as I understand your use of it and as the Bible teaches, is not an abstract term. It also is embraced in friendship and love.

It is the truth about men. Every man has his weakness and his strength. No perfect man ever walked the earth except one- Jesus.

Men are weak. If we knew the environment and conditions surrounding a brother, our hearts would be strangely tender towards him. Harsh personal criticism never does any good. If you ever win a man it will be by playing on the goodness in him, and not by harping on th evil within him. Those who have been most successful in helping and savingothers have been those who have uncovered the gold of goodness in others.

Two notes out of tune-spoiled all the music on the piano. Instead of throwing the whole piano away in disgust, it is better to tune it.

"Remember, all mortals that trifle with wrong,
All friendless, forsaken and odd;
All those who are helpless, all those wh are strong.
All toilers that wearily plod;
All races of men, all the numberless throng,
Are dear to the heart of God"

And yet how prone we are to throw a friend away or a loved one because of one act of discord on his part. Would'nt it be better to go to him and try to tune him up to ~~pitch~~ the right pitch?

There is also grandeur in every man, even in thw wreck of a man. We ought to get very charitable with men when we bear in mind both the weakness and the nobility that is in every one of us.

The truth of Odd Fellowship and of the Bible also makes us see God as He is, and our consequent obligation to Him. A man asked Daniel Webster what was the most serious thot tha ever occupied his mind. His answer-B My personal responsibil ity to God." And it is the business of Odd Fellows and Xns to learn the truth about God. Jesus Christ is our best picture of God. In him we see that God is love and mercy, goodness and truth, beauty and grace.

Jesus makes us realize the truth of what Miss Rittle says

Suppose your three links of Friendship, Love and Truth bound the whole world of humanity dogether? What would our international relations be? How would we conduct our economic affairs? What would be the social status of each and every person in the world? Would they not inaugurate the Kingdom of God on earth? World-wide fraternity expressed in freindshoip, love and truth'.

I. Let us look at the world today.

1. This is a critical time for all human insitutions, including government, church, lodge.

We are llving, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time.

Nowadays we are often reminded of th answer of the little fellow in geography class when his teacher asked him, "What is the shape of the world?" "My father says it is in the worst shape ~~it/s/e/r/h/a/p/e/d//~~ he ever knew it to be."

We are facing a new world with new problems and new responsibilities.

1. The Church must come to see itself, not as asacred institution of God, to be preserved at all hazards in its traditional form; but as an instrument to be sharpened, bent into shape as the need of the world may demand and as God may will. The law of Jesus that only he who loses his life shall save it applies to the Church. Xty is a world movement destined to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

Leonard Outhwaite

Unrolling the Map

the Story of Exploration

The Junior Literary guild

New York 1935

5. Therefore it behooves every Xn of whatever denomination to recognize the good in all other Xns and to work with them for the redemption of the world order.

Someone has expressed it thus: "If we could get religion like a Baptist, experience it like a Methodist, be positive about it like a Disciple, be proud of it like an Episcopalian, pay for it like a Presbyterian, propogate it likea Sevanth Day Adventist, and enjoy it like a Negro that would be some religion."

The new demands of our changing world is compelling Xns everywhere to develop a greater sense of unity and a deeper religious fervor.

3. The changing world is also demanding of both church and lodge a wider application of fraternity as expressed in friendship, love and truth. It must be made the fraternal spirit of the whole world. Lodge-members of whatever order you may be, your lodge principles and teachings are not the peculiar property of your lodges, they belong to the whole world of humanity and it is up to you to shae them, to live them and to practice them in your daily conduct.

May you be Odd Fellows in deed! Odd to those who are sinful and worldly, odd to the stingy and mean, odd to all that is depraved and unholy and material, ever ready to be thoroly in harmony with God, ever ready to serve the needs of men in this changing world of ours.